

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY: Malawi

REPORT NO.

25X1

TOPIC Soviet Troops in the Balt

EVALUATION ☐ 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED:

27 April 1960

## REFERENCES

PAGES

ENCLOSURES (10, 2, 775)

REMARKS

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The following information on Soviet troops in the Banat was obtained between 20 October 1949 and 12 March 1950:

1. Beregsaul-Mere (R 16/T 81):

a. About 1,200 Soviet troops were stationed in the town, where no barracks are available, on 28 October 1949. The unit headquarters was in the town hall. A colonel was billeted in house No. 72, according to a municipal employee.

b. Two three-axle radio trucks with trailer, including  
radio truck [redacted] with an about 5-meter-long<sup>70</sup> antenne,  
were parked in the yard of the town hall.

25X1 c. Forty-six T34 tanks, [redacted] 25X1  
25X1 [redacted] were parked on the eastern edge  
25X1 of the town. Twenty-two T35 trucks [redacted]  
25X1 [redacted]

2. Timisoara (R 16/T 91) area:

a. A Soviet rocket launcher unit moved from the railroad station to the barracks of the former 5th Inf Regt on Marasesti Square, Timisoara, on 19 November 1949. Eighteen trucks [redacted] carried mounted rocket launchers and tanks.

b. Fortification work was done at the barracks of the former 5th Inf Regt in late November 1949. Log shelters with three entrances each and covered with an about 1.5-meter-thick earth layer were constructed at the four corners of the main building. A ditch was dug around the entire barracks.

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Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP82-00157R004900460001-8

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(1) About 500 civilian laborers, supervised by Soviet soldiers, worked at a trench system in the western town sector. One trench began at the road to Arad (R 16/U 16), west of the Romitex Textile Factory, crossed the drill ground, ran parallel with the outer King Street, crossed the open area between the inner town and the 5th District of Mehala bent toward the suburb of Ronatz and, farther to the south, reached the Dega River. Other trenches were started along both sides of the road to Sag (R 16/T 90), with annex trenches leading up into the SE town sector, near the road to Buzias (R 16/Z 29).

25X1 (2) Soviet officers did surveying work in the Timisoara area. Trucks [redacted] loaded with meat, entered the barracks of the former 5th Inf Regt on 24 November 1949.

25X1 c. Numerous Soviet tanks of an unknown type (it was the impression that they were ST guns) were seen in the Artillery Barracks (Transylvanian Barracks) on 4 December 1949. [redacted]

25X1 d. The Artillery Barracks (Transylvanian Barracks) was guarded by soldiers wearing black epaulets and armed with submachine guns on 17 January 1950. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] Two trucks hauled furniture and loaves of bread to the barracks.

25X1 e. (1) A Soviet truck convoy, at the junction to Berzovia, was observed moving toward Berzovia (Y 18/Z 27) on the Timisoara-Deta (Y 18/Y 97) road, on 2 March 1950. Each truck was occupied by 30 to 35 soldiers, wearing red epaulets, mostly armed with submachine guns and having luggage with them. No heavy weapons were seen. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]

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[redacted]

### 3. Arad.

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a. The fortress was occupied by Soviet troops on 19 December 1949. Guards wore black epaulets. [redacted]

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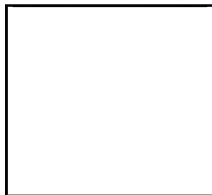
25X1 b. Truck [ ] towing a long-barreled AT gun with muzzle brake, entered the fortress on 12 March 1950.

4. Lipova-Radna (R 16/U 34) (by an informant from Lipova):

a. A Soviet regiment (presumably artillery) was stationed in Lipova on 31 December 1949.

(1) The following motor vehicles were observed between 27 and 31 December 1950:

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trucks

passenger car  
passenger car

25X1 (2) Passenger car [ ] occupied by four officers, arrived in Lipova from westerly direction on 10 January 1950.

b. The following motor vehicles belonging to the about 3,000 Soviet troops in the Lipova-Radna area were observed on 19 and 20 January 1950:

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5. Recas (R 16/U 11):

a. (1) A Soviet AA artillery unit was stationed in Recas on 6 February 1950. Sixteen guns of about 88 mm caliber, towed by trucks, were identified.

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(2) Twenty-four T34 tanks arrived in Recas the night of 9 February 1950. The tanks were parked on the side-walks in front of the houses. Passenger car [ ] occupied by two field officers, arrived with the tanks. Personnel with radio truck [ ] set up a radio station in the yard of house No. 103. Two 5-meter rod antennas were observed. The tank unit was still in town on 12 February 1950.

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b. Truck [ ] was [ ] in Recas on 4 March 1950. Other trucks were parked in town.

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Comment:

a. The credibility of the report, [redacted] cannot be judged. Form and contents of the report, however, indicate that the information may be correct.

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b. The various data on branch of service and strength of the units mentioned [redacted]

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indicate that Soviet troops amounting to about one division (tank or mechanized division ?) may be stationed in the Timisoara-Arad area (Banat).

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c. [redacted]

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[redacted] The troops are therefore likely to belong to a division which was recently moved to Rumania rather than to one of the divisions so far assumed to be stationed there.

Soviet troops of about one, understrength, division were moved by rail from the Soviet Union to the Arad area via Jassy and Craiova in August 1949, according to an unconfirmed report [redacted]

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Although no subsequent information on these troops has been received, it is considered possible that they may be the troops mentioned in the report which covers the period from late October 1949 to mid-March 1950.

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